



# The VMGA Report

## The Voice for Virginia Master Gardeners

<https://vmga.net/wordpress/>

March/April 2022

Volume 27, Number 5

From the President  
Leslie Paulson, Prince William

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### President's Letter

Spring is coming and I am sure you are looking forward to it as much as I am. My daffodils are about 4 inches tall already. As we approach April 9th and our next meeting, I encourage you to consider attending our Board meeting in person. It will be held in Dillwyn which is near Charlottesville. Mary Martinez-Rigo, our Merchandise lead, will host our meeting at Littlebird Alpacas of River Ridge Farms. The address is 670 River Ridge Rd, Dillwyn, VA. You will have a chance to see all the VMGA merchandise on display to buy. Yes, we are shaking it up a bit. It will be nice to be together in person, for the second time since the pandemic began ruling our lives. I hope to see many of you there. Dress for the weather. It's a beautiful Amish Barn we will be meeting in, but there is no heat. We are gardeners and can adapt and enjoy.

Soon we will all be holding events and working in our Unit's gardens and our own. It is an exciting time of year and who does not look forward to the flowers of spring and the awakening of butterflies and bees to come help pollinate our gardens. You all take care and enjoy. I am looking forward to the clock springing forward to have more daylight to work in my garden. I am sure you all are as well. See you in April.

Thank you,  
Leslie Paulson

VMGA President – [president@vmga.net](mailto:president@vmga.net)



## 2022 VMGA BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

April 9th            October 8th  
June 25th          December 10th  
August 13th

### VMGA Officers

President  
Leslie Paulson  
Prince William

Vice President  
Nelda Purcell  
Franklin County

Secretary  
Betsy Brown  
Bedford County

Treasurer  
Georgianna Hall  
Loudoun County

### NEWS AND NOTES FROM VCE LIAISON

Kathleen Reed, EMG Program State Coordinator

For updates, be sure to check out the Bi-weekly Update at  
<https://mastergardener.ext.vt.edu/biweekly-update/>

### VMGA EDUCATION SPONSORSHIPS

VMGA is continuing to offer Unit Sponsorships for events that deliver Advanced Continuing Education. We had six units accept our sponsorship during 20/21. The purpose of our Sponsorship is threefold. We want to:

- 1. Encourage Advanced Continuing Education for Virginia's EMGs.**
- 2. Demonstrate to units the value of VMGA.**
- 3. Have an opportunity to recruit members.**

We will sponsor in-person, virtual, and in-between formats. While our preference is large symposium or workshop events with lots of EMG in attendance, any size event can seek our sponsorship.

If you desire VMGA to defray the costs of your event, submit an application. For more information, please visit <https://vmga.net/wordpress/vmga-educational-sponsorships/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kirk Barley at [VMGAEdCmte@gmail.com](mailto:VMGAEdCmte@gmail.com)

### CALENDAR

**March 18, 2022**—Please note the Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium, hosted by the Waynesboro Parks and Recreation Department, is scheduled for March 18th at the Best Western. Details are at this link: <https://www.waynesboro.va.us/971/Shenandoah-Valley-Plant-Symposium>

**March 19, 2022 CANCELLED**—The Train the EMG Educator Day is March 19, 2022. The March 19th Train the EMG Educator event has been cancelled. Thanks to all who volunteered to teach, and those on the Education Committee who supported the event.

**March 26, 2022**—Save the Date! The 2022 Gardening in the Northern Neck seminar will be held on **Saturday, March 26, 2022**. Plans are underway for the seminar to be held at the White Stone Church of the Nazarene in White Stone, with three guest speakers and presentations. Additional information will be available in early 2022 on our [website](#).

**April 15, 2022**—The Quarry Gardens at Schuyler is a private garden of 40 acres built around a former soapstone mine, which then turned into a community dump. They first opened it to the public in 2017. The gardens include prairies, butterfly and pollinator gardens, an amended wetland, three vernal pools, barrens, a fern gully, and a waterside talus. In all, nearly 50,000 plants of 198 species have been integrated into the gardens. Besides providing a home for plants, the owners would like to preserve the history of soapstone mining in the area. The gardens have two miles of walking trails.

VMGA (the education committee) has arranged for a small group (15 total) to take a tour in April. (The owner is a master gardener also). The date is April 15th, at two pm, and the cost is \$10 for VMGA members. You will need to provide your own transportation (and mask!). Please contact me to reserve your spot; and payment in advance will hold your spot. Write check to "The Quarry Gardens" The address is 1643 Salem Road in Schuyler, VA. The

VMGA Membership has its advantages:

- ◆ Unit Support
- ◆ Scholarships
- ◆ Newsletter
- ◆ Advanced Training
- ◆ Discount Event Fees
- ◆ Membership Directory
- ◆ Statewide Networking

### From the Editor

Deadline for May/June issue:  
**April 23, 2022**

We would love to feature your unit's announcements, events or articles in the next issue. Articles can be about a favorite plant, tree, project, book review, or other topic of interest. This will encourage involvement around the state, getting more involved. Please send to:  
VMGA Newsletter Editor  
[newsletter@vmga.net](mailto:newsletter@vmga.net)

## Calendar Continued

garden is 26 miles south south-west of Charlottesville, and about 50 miles north of Lynchburg.

Mgers who are not members of VMGA are welcome to attend after either becoming members or donating the membership fee of \$12.50.

Erica Jones

1171 Happy Hollow Rd

Newport VA 24128

540 544 7359 (no text but answering machine).

540 922- 5931.cell phone which I use (only) for travel. No guarantees it will work at the garden

**June 22-26, 2022**—MG College is in Blacksburg this year. All the details are not quite worked out, but we will have great speakers and of course you will be able to see all your friends from across the state. This year the Steward program will be Land Steward.

## FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee is working to bring this process online. We have been implementing an entirely new system and establishing procedures for distance deliveries. Samples will be made available for each unit representative to share with their membership.

I wish to share with membership, ordering will take place the first of every month that we meet minimums. Product will be distributed the first and fifteenth of each month as available. Our returning it on-person gatherings will resume in December 2021. I hope this schedule and sample availability will aide in the decision making process for our membership. The current inventory has a wide range of sizing in the actual product line. We will improve upon this moving forward.

You are appreciated and we welcome your contributions to the refinement of this process. Please feel free to telephone Mary directly at 703.216.1479.

Thank you in advance.

Mary Martinez-Rigo

VMGA, PWC, 2007

## Would you like to be more involved in the VMGA??

We are asking for volunteers for our Nominating Committee for our VMGA Elections in the spring. If you are interested, get in touch with Frank Reilly at [communications@vmga.net](mailto:communications@vmga.net).

We also are looking for people who would like to join our Executive Board or one of our committees. Please consider joining us as we work hard for all the Master Gardeners around the state. If you are interested, get in touch with Leslie Paulson at [president@vmga.net](mailto:president@vmga.net)

## **2022 Master Gardener College Scholarships**

### **Stacey Morgan Smith, 2022 Scholarship Committee Chair**

The Scholarship Committee of the Virginia Master Gardener Association (VMGA) is happy to announce that it's accepting nominations for the 2022 Diane Relf Extension Master Gardener College (EMGC) Scholarships. The nomination period is from March 15th through April 30th, and this year's Scholarships are intended to cover the majority of the costs to attend MGC. Volunteers will receive more information about MGC from the State Office in April, and registration will open in May.

The Scholarship recognizes those volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional potential in their local Units, and it is part of VMGA's educational mission. It's awarded to deserving Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs) to help them in their continuing education efforts through attendance at EMGC and to increase the number of EMGs able to attend. Any interested active EMG is eligible for nomination; financial need is not a required criteria. (Trainees, interns, and prior VMGA Scholarship recipients are not eligible.) Each unit may nominate up to two EMGs who are attending EMGC 2022.

VCE Agents or Coordinators may submit nomination applications from March 15 through midnight of April 30th by Google Form, by using a Google Doc, or through the VMGA website. A Word version of the application is also available by emailing the committee chair. Recipients and nominators will receive notification by May 15th, and Scholarship checks will be awarded to recipients at the annual VMGA meeting during MGC. Arrangements may be made for recipients who require funds up front to cover registration.



If you have any questions, please contact Scholarship Committee Chair Stacey Morgan Smith at [VMGAScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:VMGAScholarship@gmail.com). Members of the 2022 Scholarship Committee also include Cynthia Falconer, Erica Jones, Ted Munns, Jim Revell, Marilyn Riddle, Joanne Royaltey, Joyce Skidmore, and Yolana Williams. Our Association appreciates their service in helping to choose this year's Scholarship recipients.

Photo for article is from 2016 EMGC, taken by me.

Links for article:

Google Form – <https://bit.ly/vmga-2022-scholarship-app>

Google Doc – <https://bit.ly/vmga-2022-scholarship-google-doc>

VMGA Website - <https://bit.ly/vmga-2022-scholarship-website-app>

**Virginia Master Gardener Association Board of Directors Meeting  
and Membership Drive 670 River Ridge Road, Dillwyn, Virginia 23936  
April 9, 2022**

Unit Master Gardeners, Interns and Current Students are invited to attend the April 9th VMGA meeting in Central Virginia. Our goal is to encourage participation and growth of the state-wide Master Gardener Association. Bimonthly meetings are held at 10a.m. the second Saturday of February, April, June (MGC annual meeting), August, October and December. There are continuing (lifetime) and annual memberships.

June 22 to 26, 2022 EMGC, includes an offering of Advanced MG training for the aspiring Land Steward. This location, thirty-two miles South of Monticello, certainly sets a strong example and speaks volumes to that process. Two Army Soldiers retired to Central Virginia, inheriting in their land purchase many generations of pine and hardwood forestry environmental challenges. Witness the transition to a farm that is strengthening soil health, by way of farming microbes for the last ten years, crop production, developing silvopasture and home to a herd of alpacas. Events will take place in an enclosed, unheated, second story area of a barn, accessed by stairs, yet out of the elements.

Units are encouraged to join in and share the Co-Hosting of this event with Piedmont Master Gardeners, Prince William County Master Gardeners, and the Fund Raising Committee of VMGA. This is an excellent opportunity for smaller units to Co-Host an event. We plan to provide a warm lunch and many door prizes. Master Gardener Logo apparel will be offered as a cash and carry option through VMGA Merchandise Mart.

We look forward to hosting you and supporting the strong growth of VMGA as the State Master Gardener Association. There is ample opportunity for continued growth through expanded participation and education beyond the unit level. Expect more information in the coming weeks.

Mary Martinez-Rigo  
Prince William County Master Gardener, 2008. Piedmont Master Gardener, 2016  
703 . 216 . 1479





## NEWSWORTHY NOTES FROM NOTABLE NEWSLETTERS

The VMGA Report is always looking for submissions from EMGs, Unit Representatives, VMGA Committee Chairs, VCE Agents, and VCE Program Associates. What can you submit? All the news that's fit to print! Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- Training recaps. Tell us your takeaways!
- Highlights of your successes in programming, lessons learned, photos of volunteers in action
- Upcoming events offered by your unit
- Book reviews
- Plant or garden spotlights.
- Photos of your plants
- Recipes using produce from your garden or a farmer's market
- Garden-related poems and other creative writing

Be sure to include your name and unit name. Submit your content by email to [newsletter@vmga.net](mailto:newsletter@vmga.net).

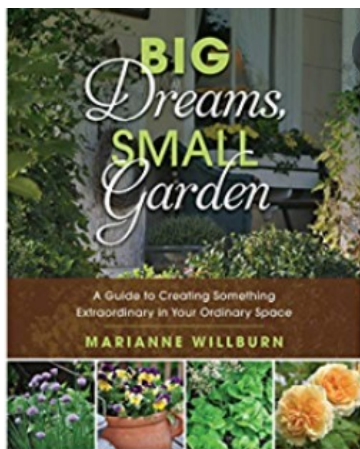
### The GraineThumb

How to Garden with Limited Space

By George Graine, Fairfax Master Gardener

"...life wasn't about what you don't have, but what you do with what you have."

-Marianne Willburn



Often you can find beautiful garden books and magazines at the library and on bookstore shelves that make you gush and think. Perhaps you too can have lots of colorful plants on a wide vista. If that is not happening, and this is just a pipe dream, do not fret. Many of us live on a typical suburban smallish size lot. Here the area to garden shrinks after considering the house footprint, driveway and walkway. This should not be a problem because award winning garden writer and extraordinary teacher, Marianne Willburn, instructs you on how to overcome your garden space in easy to understand words and realistic colorful photos. After reading her book you will not regret or repel at your own limited space because "Big Dreams, Small Garden: A Guide to Creating Something Extraordinary in Your Ordinary Space" (Skyhorse Publishing, 2017) will show you the way to achieve and how to create your own perfect garden.

This book is written in four sections which include: Visualize, Achieve, Maintain and Enjoy. You will learn how living in what here-to-fore was an imperfect space can become your own pride and joy. In that regard, Willburn shows you how to overcome your former obstacles.

Thus, your less than ideal landscape will melt away when you stick to her step-by-step plan for your own garden. If you are envious of those with large properties, then carefully consider this direct quote from Willburn. "Big garden=big price ... a large garden requires a large amount of time, thought, and financial outlay, whereas a small garden can give one a sense of joy and accomplishment whilst allowing greater balance in the rest of one's life. More is not always better." Perhaps the word "energy" should also be included after the word "time" in this quote. Agree or not, the choice is yours. Another quote: "Being creative is not just about a constant stream of ideas and inspirations, it's about solving problems, and all of us do this on a more or less daily basis."

If you are not familiar with the term "garden porn" or "plant porn" get over it because these are the current words used by the green industry that can trigger your inspiration. This often happens as a result of reading garden magazines and watching computer videos and websites about plants and planting and landscaping and so much more. Is that truly realistic or a lot of hype because you need to access your own creativity and desires. Willburn provides us with a series of various "exercises" and helpful thoughts and ideas. At the same time, she includes colorful photos that help to get various points across to the reader. For example, Exercise #1 accentuates the negative, #2 notes obstacles and opportunities and #3 sketching out a very rough idea. All of these exercises are valuable because they focus in on real garden problems and their solutions.

The discussion on "Planning Your Garden" is invaluable because Willburn breaks down a series of questions and answers by asking the reader a very important question, what do you want? In a straight forward manner, she tends to answer your many concerns because they can be so confusing and makes you wonder - how do I start fixing my problem(s)? Section 2 of the book is about achieving your "wants" now that you have gone through the mental gyrations of visualizing your garden. It is now time to be realistic about how to achieve a garden design that will fit the space. You are not alone! Your local library and the internet, noted earlier, provide an abundance of resources that may overwhelm you. It is important that you reconsider what you want so that you do not need to deal with way too many ideas. Willburn makes clear that gardening is a process and cannot be hurried. She writes "...an instant garden soon becomes a boring garden, as does an

instant design.” Then she elaborates by noting “It’s the joy of watching things become, rather than watching them be.” In other words, think, take time and visualize what you want your garden to be. The emphasis should be on your garden and not some cookie-cutter design from a potentially uncreative landscape designer who has not listened to you describe what you are trying to achieve. You may find yourself re-reading Section 2 of Willburn’s book because it provides excellent do’s and don’ts. If you follow them, the chances are that your garden dream will become a reality. By the way, many of the guidelines may surprise you. A couple of examples to consider are (1) foliage is more important than flowers and (2) larger plants or shrubs throughout the garden will create a more cohesive garden.

Of course after designing and then planting comes that part of gardening that is also an integral part of the process of gardening – maintenance. This must be considered along with the future of your garden in mind. You may have limited time and energy to carry out all the many maintenance chores; therefore, you need to strike a balance with seven hard truths that you may or may not recognize. All of these truths came from Willburn’s book. For many of us they are real and need to be recognized in advance as part of your dream garden. In the book, Willburn goes into sufficient detail for each truth. They include:

1. There will never be time when I am completely finished.
2. Whatever I create, I have an obligation to maintain.
3. If I cannot maintain it, I need to change it.
4. I can’t just work hard; I must also work smart.
5. What works for someone else might not work for me.
6. I need to research the plants I choose to cultivate.
7. I’m not doing a great thing – not really a hard truth, but it gives you a great feeling of accomplishment.

And finally, the last section of the book (Enjoy) is probably what you want after all the work you put into your big dreams for a smallish size garden. It is now time to realize the Eden you created. In summary, and with much humor, Willburn shows us how to overcome a less than perfect garden space. In particular she points out that our relationship to Mother Earth is something that should be embraced. Gardening is good for your well-being and finding contentment wherever you find yourself. This should be a dream that you can execute at your own pace. Gardening is a process and at the same time you will cultivate a spirit of contentment so enjoy gardening now.



### **My Love Affair with Compost** The Hapless Gardener by Nancy Moore Piedmont Master Gardeners



I *love* compost piles. But this has not come naturally. When my husband first introduced me to composing about 30 years ago, I thought he was pulling my leg. Dig a hole in the ground and put all our vegetable waste in it? Is this some kind of joke?



Then he produced the book *Let It Rot!* by Stu Campbell, and I saw that there was a lot of support behind this practice. Lots of people did it, and so we too joined the compost club.

**And, I have become a compost junkie.** In fact, when we first moved to our home 26 years ago, one of my first thoughts was not ordering spring bulbs or even what grocery to shop at; it was where we should put our compost pile. We have limited space, and we were forced to put it in the back of the property in a quite shady area. I don’t know if this is ideal but it has worked okay.

We started out with our “hole and pile” system. But then I graduated to wanting something that “looked nice.” So, I scouted up free pallets and hauled them home in our truck. We set them up to form three separate cubicles. The idea is that you have one pile to add to, one pile to “sit” and one pile to use. We

don't exactly do this because the pile that is the "use" pile has become our nursery bed for struggling plants or experiments. But we do sort of use the other two as suggested. And if we must, we just dig up underneath them to get to the good stuff!

**Compost is glorious.** It really does smell healthy! It looks good too. Maybe I should put myself in the compost pile for a few months and see if I come out looking better and smelling nicer! Better than a day at the spa! Ours rarely gets "hot" but it occasionally gets warm and, if I turn it fairly regularly, there is no odor. We do have critters around so we know to cover whatever we put down.

My biggest problem with the compost pile is that when I head back there, I tend to lose track of time. On a number of occasions, I have gone out to the compost pile to dump the kitchen waste on my way to the car before church... or to a wedding. I am in my good clothes and my good shoes. And, my husband may be sitting in the driveway waiting for me. But I think "Oh, let me just turn it a bit and see if there are any earthworms today." Before you know it, 15 minutes has gone by, my shoes are dirty and I have grubby hands. But I had a great time!

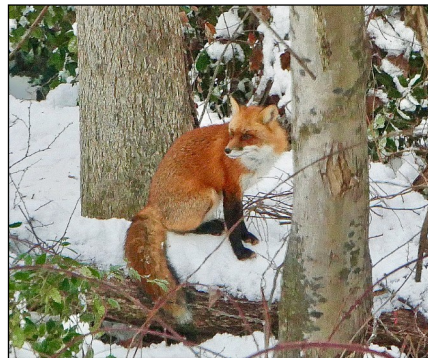
**Alleviate your guilt!** – One of the things I like best about compost piles is the guilt that it alleviates. That new dish you tried that was a complete bomb? Feed it to the compost! Too many weeds in the yard? Hurl them onto the compost heap knowing you will be getting something out of them! All those dribs and drabs of leftovers in Tupperware? Throw them on the compost pile! Not only are you getting your fridge cleaned out, you are saving the landfill! I can pride myself on being "organic" rather than wasteful!

**Bring clippings home from vacation?** – Last summer we visited our friends in Philadelphia. We watched as our friend mowed his grass and then put the clippings in a trash can for the city to pick up. Oh, no, no, no! That will never do! We got some large trash bags and carried the grass clippings back to Charlottesville for our compost heap. The same is true whenever I visit my father in New York. All those little plastic Keurig coffee containers get carried back home to Virginia where I open each one and dump the remains in the kitchen bucket for the compost.

I suppose that we are not too far off from being viewed as crazy lunatics... but I am okay with that. And, if our kids can get permission, they may dump my cremated body back there.



Now, wouldn't that be a very fine ending?



*If you are going out this week, make sure you wear a warm coat, like our little friend.*





Photo by: Jason Alexander

## INSIGHTS: PLANTING TREES

By: Abbie & Vincent Panettiere  
Prince William County Master Gardeners

On September 21st, 2021, when our Nancy Berlin asked us to help plant trees, saying “These tree planting projects are great volunteer efforts that really make a difference in our community. The county either currently has these areas planted in turf that needs mowing and would like to convert to native trees to build a forest ecosystem over time”, it gave me an excuse to give another look at trees, which I love.

There are more than 3 trillion trees on earth presently which seems to be a number so large it is hard to grasp until you consider that the earth, because of logging, clear cutting, burning and other causes of environmental degradation in recent history, has lost nearly eighty percent of the trees that used to be on the planet.

With the effects of global warming becoming inescapable, more and more people and countries are taking the need for tree planting seriously. The need is particularly acute in areas where logging or clearing lands for agriculture and home or industrial building have denuded large areas of forest cover.

On a personal level, many more people are becoming aware of their “carbon footprint” (the total amount of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, that are generated by human actions). There are now sites on-line that will help estimate the amount of carbon you are adding to the atmosphere by your everyday actions. The Nature Conservancy, for one, provides an example to help you calculate your carbon footprint which takes into account travel, home, food and shopping. ([https:// www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/](https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/))

As a part of that effort, planting trees is an excellent way to decrease – even on a very small scale – the size of your carbon footprint and here again, there are sites online that will tell you how to figure the amount of carbon being sequestered by each tree to see how well you’re doing and what trees and how many to plant.

Several sites provided the means to calculate how much carbon would be taken up by planting each tree, and how many trees one should plant to reduce one’s carbon footprint. Since some of the sites I visited had calculating methods which were difficult to use, here are a few simple generalizations and observations to consider:

1. Each year, the average American consumer adds 16 tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.
2. An acre of trees will capture approximately a ton of CO<sub>2</sub> per year depending on the age of the trees, the climate they live in, the type of forest and the soil they’re planted in. All trees will absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, but the peak years for carbon sequestration generally occur when they are young, from ten to 45 years after being planted.
3. It takes about 1,025 trees to offset the average American’s emissions.
4. Each tree absorbs about 31 lbs. of carbon dioxide per year.

It is encouraging that people are taking the growing need for more trees seriously. To get some idea of the scope of this response to threat of drastic climate change, in 2020 a published report listed one hundred countries in the order of their number of trees planted at that time. China came in first, with 2,407,149,493 trees planted. The United States was in 10th place, with 315,586,982 trees, and Brazil was in 16th place with 144,078,245 trees. In some countries, after trees had been removed through logging (legal and illegal), or for farming or the expansion of cities, efforts have begun to reverse this trend. Some countries are implementing schemes to plant trees, native trees if possible, to return bare and useless areas to productive ones. Progress is being seen in the re-forestation of these areas.

As an example, the Washington Post printed an article this year on August 20th covering the efforts Pakistan is now making to reforest areas that had been stripped of trees.

Several other articles, also have covered the same project, which aims to plant ten billion trees to allow Pakistan to become more resilient in the face of global warming.

A report from 2014 said that tree cover in Lahore, Punjab was .03% of land area, and that deforestation and degradation of

## Insights: Planting Trees Sources & For More Information

<https://treeproject.net/TREEPROJECT>

<https://theeuropatimes.com/pakistan-environmentalists-slam-10-billion-trees-project/> The Europa Times, Wednesday, 9/15/2021

Pakistan: Environmentalists slam '10 billion trees' project

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/interactive/2021/pakistan-tree-billion-tsunami-photos/>

The Washington Post, By Tik Root, 8/20/2021

<https://www.kashmirica.com/blog/chinar-tree/>

Kashmirica  
All You Need to Know About the Majestic Chinar Tree  
by Mir Saeid, 4/4/2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/feb/13/worlds-lost-forests-returning-trees>

The Guardian  
A eureka moment for the planet: we're finally planting trees again  
John Vidal

<http://www.carboncalculator.ncsu.edu/Trees.aspx>

NC State University

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg12717273-700-technology-plastic-trees-may-turn-the-deserts-green/>

New Scientist  
Technology: Plastic trees may turn the deserts green

By Anthony Luke, 7/27/1990

<https://savingnature.com/offset-your-carbon-footprint-carbon-calculator/>

Saving Nature; Carbon Footprint Calculator

<https://ethical.net/climate-crisis/carbon-farming-sequestering-carbon-in-plants-and-soil/>

ethical.net  
Carbon Farming: Sequestering Carbon in Plants and Soil  
Elizabeth Waddington  
6/4/2020

forests were continuing at the alarming rate of 1.5% per year so that only 1.2% of Balochistan territory was given over to forests.

By 2018, climate change was recognized as increasing forest loss because glaciers in the Himalayas were reduced or disappearing which, in turn, shrunk water reservoirs resulting in Pakistan suffering extreme events of flooding and drought.

With the project underway to repair the damage from legal and illegal removal of forest cover, the aim of this project of recovery is ultimately to provide 31% forest coverage to Pakistan.

That Washington Post article, written by Tik Root on August 20th described the working of the project states:

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, residents of all stripes, from government officials to Boy Scouts, fan out along the hills. They bring with them chinar tree saplings — which can grow to nearly 100 feet tall — along with other varieties, and they begin digging.

It's all part of an effort that started in 2015, when Imran Khan — then a provincial politician and now Pakistan's prime minister — backed a program dubbed a 'Billion Tree Tsunami.' The initiative reached its province-wide target in 2018 and was so successful that federal officials expanded the drive nationally in 2019 with a new goal of 10 billion trees — or, the 'Ten Billion Tree Tsunami.'

Unfortunately, projects of this sort are not universally accepted and are subject to criticisms, many of which are valid. An article in The Europa Times, September 15, 2021, entitled Pakistan: Environmentalists slam '10 billion trees' project showed that critics believed it to be an "unsustainable and expensive waste of resources." One expert said that the plan was being undertaken without any proper planning. Rather than oversight by experts, saplings were being planted where there was a scarcity of water by "...bureaucrats who know less about forestation and causes of deforestation." They hadn't carried out an empirical study into the availability of water, putting available groundwater reserves under added strain.

To the government's claim that the project would cost a little over 125 million rupees (\$750 million), the critics found several issues to raise. Administrative and other expenses, they said, were not being included in the projected cost. Students were brought in to plant over 50,000 saplings and their transportation and other costs were not in the project budget.

Objections were raised to overplanting grazing areas since the grazing animals were able to lessen the chance of forest fires by clearing brush from the area; natural springs would be adversely affected, making water even more scarce; any non-native trees would not survive well. One critic said that trees previously planted in an area had all burned from the intense heat and from the lack of water or proper care. The project supposedly created some 85,000 jobs but an anonymous government official wanted to know where there was record of these 85,000 workers. And one official said that "...a number of people close to the chambers of power have set up nurseries from which the government buys the trees for planting." Government supporters are benefiting from the project, the official claimed.

This is only to underline the fact that large well-intended projects may have not been well thought out and would face complaint and criticism. By and large, however, the

<https://www.coolearth.org/projects/queens-green-canopy/> Earthshot, Cool Earth, The Queen's Green Canopy

"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/planet-trees/schools-and-communities/queens-green-canopy/>

Woodland Trust

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/earthshot-prize-everything-to-know/>

Global Citizen Explains Defend the Planet

What Is the Earthshot Prize? Everything to Know About Prince William's £1 Million Climate Award; By Helen Lock 10/15/2021

<https://www.zee5.com/articles/from-the-field-costa-rica-points-the-way-to-a-sustainable-world-9>

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From the Field: Costa Rica points the way to a sustainable world.

By Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo - PNUD

10/18/2021

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/> The Nature Conservancy Calculate your Carbon Footprint

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg14219223-000-technology-inventor-turns-tide-on-power-generation/>

New Scientist

Technology: Inventor turns tide on power generation

By Anthony Luke, 4/22/1994

desire for tree-planting projects is well appreciated in these times when the world is showing the effects of increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Countries all over the world are taking seriously the need to plant trees to offset the damage done by years of clear-cutting for agriculture, housing and city development, and also for the damage done by illegal logging.

Signs of progress are that former farmlands in Ireland, Norway, and France are now covered by tens of thousands of hectares of small sapling trees. England proposes to plant 50 million trees in a forest intended to grow from coast to coast.

A very serious problem for countries with large areas of desert where trees cannot be supported led one scientist, Antonio Ibáñez de Alba, an engineer, researcher and scientist from Spain, to develop trees made out of plastic to mimic the actions of real trees in order to bring back a supply of water to begin the re-greening of desert lands.

An article in New Scientist of July 27th 1990 by Anthony Luke, explains how the plastic trees work. The intention is to "turn desert areas green by changing the meteorological patterns in the desired zones, principally through the increase of precipitation. 'If rain is caused by the meeting of cold and warm air, all you need to do is create a source of low temperatures to spark precipitation.'"

Libya, in 1990, planted 50,000 plastic trees, at a cost of nearly \$1 billion, to see if the plastic trees could do what they were supposed to do.

Another expert in the field was less than impressed and said that, for example, a million dollar artificial tree removes on average 100 tons of carbon from the atmosphere. An acre of real trees does the same thing for \$10,000.

It's been more than forty years since the plastic tree project was started in 1990. I didn't find anything more than the opinion that it was too early to comment on success or failure of the project.

From Costa Rica to Nepal and Peru to Mongolia, tree planting has become a political, economic and ecological cause, and a universal symbol of restoration, regrowth and faith in the future. More than 120 countries promised in 2015 to plant and restore large areas of forest as a response to the climate crisis, and the United Nations set a target to restore 350 million hectares by 2030 – an area bigger than India. Then, in 2017, the United Nations set another target to increase forested land by 3% worldwide by 2030.

England is setting an example with two projects. First, The Queen's Green Canopy, with a slogan to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee," in honor of the Queen's seventy years of service to Great Britain. Her Majesty has set an example throughout her reign by planting more than 1,500 trees worldwide and has joined Sir David Attenborough in speaking of the importance of trees in the planet's future. The project has the hope that all Britons from individuals and groups to whole towns and cities will educate themselves and then plant thousands of trees to reforest Britain. Existing woodlands will also be marked with commemorative plaques in the Queen's name to preserve forests for the future and commemorate her years of service.

Also, on October 17th, 2021, a ceremony was held to award £1 Million prizes to five winners in a contest initiated by Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, Sir David Attenborough, and a charity founded by Prince William and his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge. The prize goes to five winners for their solutions to the most serious environmental problems of our time. Prizes will be awarded every year until 2030 from an award fund of £50 million. Other supporters of the Earthshot Prize include Greenpeace, the UN Environment Program, WWF and corporate members including



Microsoft, Bloomberg, and Ikea.

One of the prizewinners this first year was the country of Costa Rica for its efforts to reverse environmental damage and develop in a sustainable way. Coming from a low in the 1990s, when Costa Rica had the world's highest global deforestation rate and its forest cover had been reduced to less than a quarter of its original size because of agricultural development and logging, Costa Rica is one of the only countries in the world to have increased economic growth while stopping biodiversity loss and brought forest cover back to over half its territory.

There are many other examples of successful projects being undertaken and the hope is that the successes will outweigh the failures, such as Brazil and the Amazon forest, and give us hope that the challenge of lowering earth's runaway temperatures can be met.

Trees, which give us such pleasure to look upon, and help to provide the very air we breathe, are our strong friends. The more of these friends we have, the happier all of us will be.





# Gardening

## Word Search Puzzle



- |             |        |              |
|-------------|--------|--------------|
| CLIPPERS    | RAKE   | SUNSHINE     |
| COMPOST     | SEEDS  | TILLER       |
| FLOWERS     | SHEARS | TROWEL       |
| GARDEN HOSE | SHOVEL | VEGETABLES   |
| GLOVES      | SNAILS | WATER        |
| HERBS       | SNIPS  | WATERING CAN |
| HOE         | SOIL   | WEEDS        |
| PLANTING    | SPADE  | WHEELBARRROW |

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